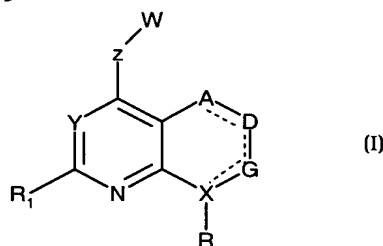


Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended): ~~A Compound~~ compound, including stereoisomers, of formula (I) ~~including stereoisomers, prodrugs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof~~



or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein the dashed line may represent a double bond;

R is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which may be substituted by 1 to 4 groups J selected from:

halogen, C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, -C(O)R₂, nitro, hydroxy, -NR₃R₄, cyano, and or a group Z;

R₁ is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, C1-C6 thioalkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, halogen, NR₃R₄, or cyano;

R₂ is a C1-C4 alkyl, -OR₃, or -NR₃R₄;

R₃ is hydrogen or C1-C6 alkyl;

R₄ is hydrogen or C1-C6 alkyl;

R₅ is a C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, -NR₃R₄[[:]], or -C(O)R₂;

R₆ is a C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, -NR₃R₄[[:]], or -C(O)R₂;

R₇ is hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, halogen, [[or]] halo, or C1-C6 alkyl;

R₈ is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR₃R₄, or cyano;

R₉ is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR₃R₄, or cyano;

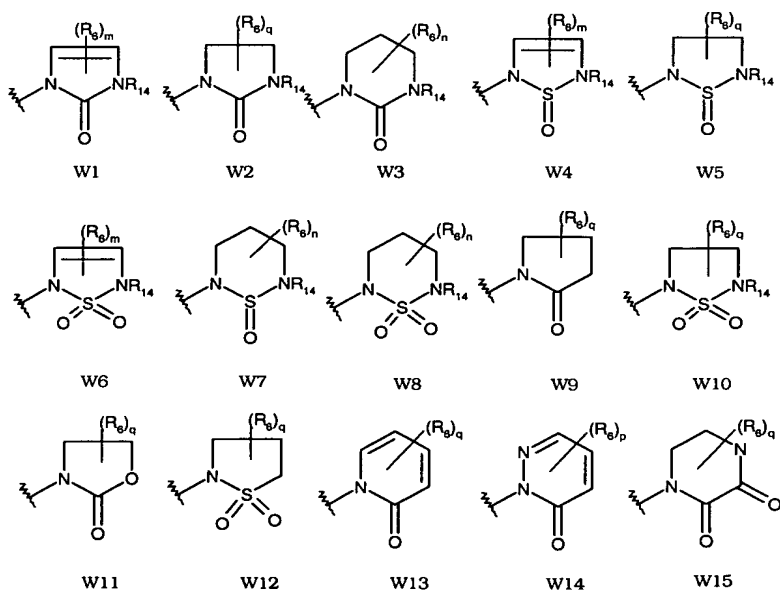
R₁₀ is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR₃R₄, or cyano;

- R₁₁ is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR₃R₄, or cyano;
 R₁₂ is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR₃R₄, or cyano;
 R₁₃ is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR₃R₄, or cyano;
 R₁₄ is R₃ or -C(O)R₂;
 D is CR₈R₉ or is CR₈ when double bonded with G or A;
 G is CR₁₀R₁₁ or is CR₁₀ when double bonded with D or is CR₁₀ when double bonded with X when X is carbon;
 A is CR₁₂R₁₃ or is CR₁₂ when double bonded with D;
 X is carbon or nitrogen;
 Y is nitrogen or -CR₇;
 W is a 4-8 carbocyclic membered ring, which may be saturated or may contain one to three double bonds, and

in which:

- one carbon atom is replaced by a carbonyl or S(O)_m; and
 - one to four carbon atoms may optionally be replaced by oxygen, nitrogen or NR₁₄, S(O)_m, carbonyl, and such ring may be further substituted by 1 to 8 R₆ groups;
- Z is a 5-6 membered heterocycle or a phenyl, which may be substituted by 1 to 8 R₅ groups;
 m is an integer from 0 to 2.

2. (Currently amended): A Compound according to claim 1, in which W is selected among from the following groups:

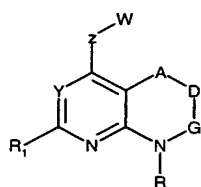


in which:

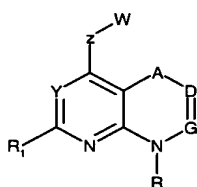
- W1 represents a 1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazol-2-one derivative;
 W2 represents a imidazolidin-2-one derivative;

W3 represents a tetrahydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one derivative;
W4 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazole 1-oxide derivative;
W5 represents a 1,2,5-thiadiazolidine 1-oxide derivative;
W6 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazole 1,1-dioxide derivative;
W7 represents a 1,2,6-thiadiazinane 1-oxide derivative;
W8 represents a 1,2,6-thiadiazinane 1,1-dioxide derivative;
W9 represents a pyrrolidin-2-one derivative;
W10 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazolidine 1,1-dioxide derivative;
W11 represents a 1,3-oxazolidin-2-one derivative;
W12 represents a isothiazolidine 1,1-dioxide derivative;
W13 represents a 2(1H)-pyridinone derivative;
W14 represents a 3(2H)-pyridazinone;
W15 represents a 2,3-piperazinedione derivative;
and q is an integer from 0 to 4[,]; n is an integer from 0 to 6[,]; p is an integer from 0 to 3[,]; and m, R₆ and R₁₄ are defined as in claim 1; or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

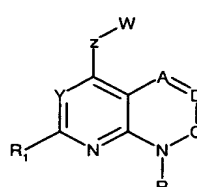
3. (Currently amended): A ~~Compounds~~ compound according to ~~claims claim~~ 1 and 2 of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (Id), ~~and or~~ (Ie),



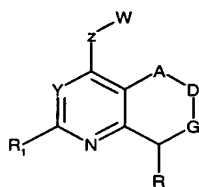
(Ia)



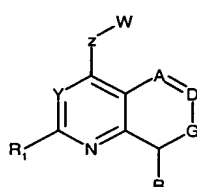
(Ib)



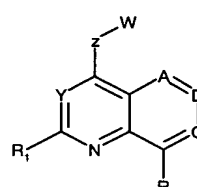
(Ic)



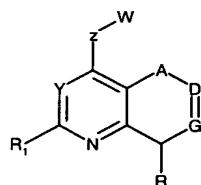
(Id)



(Ie)



(If)



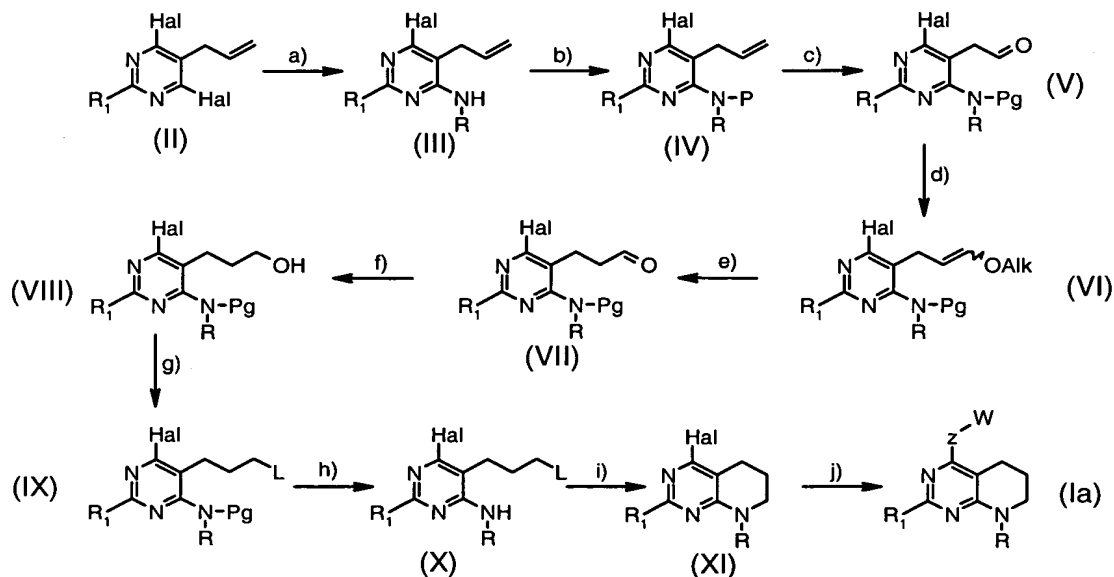
(Ig)

in which R, R₁, Z, Y, W, A, D, G are defined as in claim 1 ~~and 2~~; or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

4. (Currently amended): A ~~Compounds~~ compound according to claim 1
~~anyone of claims from 1 to 3~~, selected from the following group:

1-{1-[8-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydropyrido[2,3-
 d]pyrimidin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone;
 1-{1-[8-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4-quinazolinyl]-1H-
 pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone; and
 1-{1-[8-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1,8-naphthyridin-4-
 yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone; or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

5. (Currently amended): A ~~Process~~ process for preparing a compound
~~compounds~~ of formula (Ia) comprising the following steps:



in which

- step a stands for the nucleophilic substitution with a suitable amine (~~such as a substituted aniline~~) of compounds of formula (II), in basic conditions (~~such as sodium hydride in a polar aprotic solvent~~) to give compounds (III);
- step b stands for the protection of the amino group with a suitable protecting group (~~such as a BOC group~~);
- step c stands for the oxidation of the double bond with a suitable oxidizing agent (~~such as ozone in a polar protic solvent~~) to give the aldehyde of compounds (V);
- step d + e stands for formation of the aldehyde group of compounds (VII) through formation of the enol ether by Wittig reaction in the usual conditions, followed by acid hydrolysis (step e);

- step f stands for the reduction of the aldehyde group of compounds (VII) to the alcohol of compounds (VIII) with a suitable reducing agent (~~such as sodium borohydride~~);
- step g stands for the conversion of the alcohol of compounds (VIII) into a suitable leaving group (~~such as, for example, a halogen or reactive residue of sulphonic acid (e.g. mesylate, tosylate), preferably mesylate~~);
- step h stands for the deprotection of the amino group of compounds (IX);
- step i stands for the intramolecular cyclization to give the cyclized compounds (X)
- step j stands for conversion of the halogen derivative, preferably chloride, into compounds (Ia), by reaction with the suitable reactive -Z-W derivative, in basic conditions (~~such as, for example, sodium hydride in a polar solvent~~).

Claims 6-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof ~~anyone from claim 1 to 4~~, in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

11. (Currently amended): A method for the treatment of ~~a mammal, including man, in particular in the treatment of~~ a condition ~~conditions~~ mediated by CRF (corticotropin-releasing factor), comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof ~~any of claims from 1 to 4, to a mammal in need thereof~~.

12. (Currently amended): A method ~~according to claim 11~~, in the treatment of depression and anxiety, comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

13. (Currently amended): A method ~~according to claim 11~~, in the treatment of IBS (irritable bowel disease) and IBD (inflammatory bowel disease), comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.